4445H3, MELTOUS

THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1923.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board.)

Population, 12250.

Area, 49850 acres.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 3328.

Number of Families, 3408.

Rateable Value, £55,181.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £229.

2.—Extract of Vital Statistics of the year.

BIRTHS.

Legitimate, 206 lllegitimate, 12 218.

Birth Rate, R.G., 17.7. England and Wales, 19.7.

DEATHS. 165.

Death Rate, R.G., 13.4. England and Wales, 11.6.

Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth { from sepsis ... o other causes ... o

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 births :-

Legitimate, 55.0. Illegitimate, 9.1.

Total, 64.1. Total for England and Wales, 69.0.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)

3.—Notifiable Diseases during the year.

| | Disea | se. | | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths |
|-----------------------|---------|-----|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever | | | | 5 | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | 2 | | |
| Diphtheria | | | | 10 | 3 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | | | ••• | I | | |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | | | | 2 | I | |
| Cerebrospinal Fever | | | • • • • | ī | | |
| Typhoid (Paratyphoi | d) | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Chicken-pox (notifiat | ole loc | | | 6 | | |

AGE INCIDENCE.

| Cases. | | Under one year. | I — | 2 | 3— | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15 | 20- | 35— | 45- | 65 & over. |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|------------|
| Scarlet Fever | | | ••• | | | ••• | 2 | 3 | ••• | ••• | | ••• | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | • • • • | | | I | I | • • • | |
| Diphtheria | • • • | 3 | 4 | I | | I | | | ••• | I | | • • • | ••• |
| Pneumonia Acute Poliomyelitis | • • • | | | | I | ••• | • • • | | ••• | • • • | | • • • | • • • • |
| Cerebrospinal Fever | | | | 1 | 1 | ••• | • • • | | 1 | *** | ••• | • • • | ••• |
| Typhoid (Paratypho | id) | | • • • | ••• | 1 | • • | ••• | ••• | ••• | 2 | ••• | • • • | |
| Chicken-pox | | | I | | ••• | ••• | | ••• | т. | | ••• | | ••• |
| | ••• | •• | 1 | | ••• | ••• | 4 | ••• | 1 | | *** | | ••• |
| DEATHS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | • • • | I | | ļ | | I | | | | | | | |

| | | | New | Cases. | | Deaths. | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------|----------------|--------|------------|---------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Age Pe | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | | | |
| | | | | М. | F. | M. | F. | М. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under one year | ••• | • • • | | | | | | | | | |
| ĭ | | | | | | I | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | •• | | | | | | | • • • |
| 10— | | | | I | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | I | | | • • • • | | I | | |
| 20— | ••• | | | • • • | I | • • • | | • • • | I | | • • • |
| 25— | | | | 2 | 2 | I | | • • • | 4 | | • • • |
| 35 | | | | I | ••• | | 2 | 2 | • • • | | 1 |
| 45- | • • • | • • • | | | • • • | • • • | | 2 | | | • • • |
| 55 | • • • | | | • • • | • • • | •• | ••• | 2 | | ••• | |
| 65 and | over | ••• | | ••• | I | ••• | • • • | • • • • | 1 | • • • • | |
| | Tot | tal | ••• | 5 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | | I |
| | | | | I | 0 | 6 | | 13 | | I | |

Tuberculosis is notified promptly. There was one non-notified Tuberculous death.

4.—Causes of Sickness.

There have been no causes of sickness calling for special mention. There was an epidemic of Whooping Cough in Melford and Great Waldingfield, necessitating the closure of the Schools.

The year on the whole has been healthy.

5.—Nursing, and Hospital Arrangements.

(a) Nursing in the Home.

The following parishes have District Nurses, who are also Midwives:—Acton, Alpheton, Assington, Boxted, Bures St. Mary, Cavendish, Great Cornard, Little Cornard, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Hartest, Melford, Nayland-c-Wiston, Newton, Stoke-by-Nayland, Somerton and Stanstead. The following have Midwives only:—Chilton (the Midwife in Sudbury serves part of this district) and Lawshall.

The following parishes have no District Nurses or Midwives:—Hawkedon and Shimpling. There is no arrangement for nursing infectious cases.

- (c) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.
 - There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held in Sudbury, which draws from part of the area. There is another in Bures serving that district.
- (d) Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.
 - (1) Tuberculosis. The Bury St. Edmund's Sanatorium admits cases from the area, and is provided by the County Council. The number of beds is inadequate, especially those for female patients.
 - (2) Maternity Hospitals.
 (3) Children's Hospitals.

 There are none available for the area.
 - (4) Fever Hospital. There is no fever hospital in the area. Cases are sometimes sent to Colchester Fever Hospital by the courtesy of the Medical Officer of Health to Colchester.
 - (5) Small Pox Hospital. There is none available for the area.
- (e) Ambulance Facilities.
 - (1) For infectious cases none available. When cases are sent to Colchester the ambulance belonging to that borough is kindly lent for the purpose
 - (2) For non-infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained by the British Red Cross Society at Bury St. Edmund's. This can be hired, and the charge is sometimes reduced for necessitous cases.

6.—Laboratory Work.

Examination of diphtheria swabs and sputa for tuberculosis is made at the laboratory maintained by the County Council in Bury St. Edmund's.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is held by me, and is issued at once on receipt of a notification.



7.—Bye-Laws.

There are no Adoptive Acts in force in the district.

8. Sanitary Administration.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 62 dairies and cowsheds on the register, all of which have been frequently inspected. All cows are grass grazed.

Seven of the largest cow-keepers send most of their milk to London, passing it through strainers and refrigerators.

The Model Regulations, 1905, are in force.

BAKE-HOUSES.

These number 25, and were inspected and their sanitary condition found satisfactory. There are no underground bake-houses.

MEAT SUPPLY.

- I. Inspected by surprise visits. No carcases found affected. Slaughter houses on the whole quite satisfactory.
- II. No public Abattoir is available, and in such a scattered district one would not seem to be necessary. Killing days are known, and periodical visits are paid.
- III. No action necessary under Public Health Act, 1875.
- IV. No carcases condemned for tuberculosis.

No. of slaughter houses in December, 1922-15.

DISINFECTION.

Was done after all deaths or change of residence of cases of Tuberculosis and also after all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Puerperal Fever and Typhoid. Done by Sanitary Inspector. Formalin spray and gas used.

DISINFESTATION.

Arrangements made with Sudbury Union Board of Guardians for use of Steam Disinfector.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No action was necessary under this Act.

9. Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health—part time. (Half salary paid by County Council.)
Sanitary Inspector—one—whole time. Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

10. Housing.

| | Nur | mber of new houses erected during the year:— | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| | | (a) Total 8 | |
| | | (b) With State assistance under Housing Acts 1919 or 1923 | |
| | | (i.) By the Local Authority o (ii.) By other bodies or persons o | |
| | | (ii.) By other bodies of persons o | |
| Ι. | INS | SPECTION. | |
| | (+) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health | |
| | (1) | or Housing Acts) | 968 |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing | |
| | | (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 311 |
| | (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to | |
| | | health as to be unfit for human habitation | 3 |
| | (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to | 22 |
| | | be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 33 |
| II. | RE | EMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE. | |
| | Nu | mber of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | |
| | | by Local Authority or their officers | 30 |

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

| A. | Proceedings under Section 28 of Housing, Town Planning Act, of 1919. | |
|-----|---|--------|
| | (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| | (2) Number of houses which were rendered fit: | |
| | (a) by Owners (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners | I O |
| | (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | 0 |
| В. | Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| | (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 3 |
| | (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied: | |
| | (a) by Owners (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners | 3 |
| C. | Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. | |
| | (1) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of a closing order | 2 |
| | (2) Number of closing orders made | 3 |
| | (3) Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on, the houses being made fit for human habitation | 3 |
| | (4) Demolition orders made | 0 |
| | (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished without demolition orders | 2 |
| | (6) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | O |
| IV. | Number of houses not complying with building bye-laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25, Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919 | - 0 |

R. W. RIX, F.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

